

REMARKS

Claims 1-84 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 71-82 are being amended. New claim 85 is being added. No new matter is being introduced by way of the amendments or new claim.

Applicants' claim 1 as now amended recites, "coupling a transducer to a selected first or second circuit for either transmitting or and to a selected second circuit for receiving."

Applicants claim 1 as now amended also recites, "adjusting electrical characteristics of the first circuit to increase a magnetic field generated by the transducer and adjusting electrical characteristics of the second circuit to be different from the electrical characteristics of the first circuit to increase a signal generated by the transducer."

Claims 1-4, 6-20, 24, 26-39, 43-44, 46-52, 54-58, 62-64, 69-77, and 82-84 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Palmero et al. (WO 96/37052) ("Palmero") in view of Kommrusch (3,906,405).

As stated in the Office Action at hand on page 2, Palmero does not explicitly teach about adjusting electrical characteristics of circuits coupled to a transducer.

Kommrusch is combined with Palmero because, as stated in lines 1-4 of page 3 of the Office Action,

Kommrusch teaches about [a] tunable antenna coupling circuit that control[s] the effective values in the circuit to match the impedance of an antenna at different frequencies to efficiently apply signals between the antenna and the transceiver.

To implement the frequency matching, in Fig. 2, Kommrusch discloses use of a channel selector and associated selector switch to select which circuit elements in the tunable antenna coupling circuit will be used for a given communications frequency.

In addition to disclosing use of the tunable antenna coupling circuit for matching multiple antennas and frequencies, Kommrusch discloses in col. 2, lines 28-31, "[t]he coupling circuit can be used at relatively high power so that it can be used for applying signals from a transmitter to an antenna, as well as from the antenna to the receiver."

Thus, Kommrusch discloses a tunable antenna coupling circuit that can be used to match multiple antennas and multiple frequencies, and can be used with both a transmitter and receiver.

However, Applicants cannot find any disclosure by Kommrusch of using a first antenna coupling circuit for transmitting and a second antenna coupling circuit with different characteristics for the first antenna coupling circuit for receiving, as recited in now amended claim 1 (“coupling a transducer to a selected first circuit for transmitting and to a selected second circuit for receiving” or “adjusting electrical characteristics of the second circuit to be different from the electrical characteristics of the first circuit,” where the first circuit is coupled to a transducer when the transducer generates a magnetic field (i.e., transmits) and the second circuit is coupled to the transducer when the transducer generates a signal (i.e., receives)).

Moreover, Kommrusch suggests an advantage of being able to use his tunable antenna coupling circuit with both a transmitter and a receiver, which, without further disclosure by Kommrusch, Applicant suggests teaches away from “coupling a transducer to a selected first circuit for transmitting and to a selected second circuit for receiving,” as recited in Applicants’ now amended claim 1.

Therefore, because neither Palmero nor Kommrusch discloses, either alone or in combination, every limitation of Applicants’ claim 1 as now amended, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) based on a combination of these references should be withdrawn.

Because claims 2-4 and 6-10 depend from claim 1, these claims should be allowed for at least the same reasons.

Independent claims 11, 36, and 51 include similar limitations as now amended claim 1 and should be allowed under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for similar reasons. With regard to claim 51, neither Palmero nor Kommrusch discloses, either alone or in combination, an additional limitation of adjusting the circuits based on feedback (“adjusting characteristics of the circuit during use based upon feedback to more efficiently transmit or receive over one of the multiple transducers”).

Because claims 12-20, 24, and 26-35 depend from claim 11; claims 37-39, 43-44, and 46-50 depend from claim 36; and claims 52, 54-58, 62-64, and 69-70 depend from claim 51; these claims should be allowed for at least the same reasons as the independent claims from which they depend.

Independent claim 71 is being amended to include similar limitations as amended claim 1 and should be allowed under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) for similar reasons.

Dependent claims 72-81 are being amended to reflect the amendments of claim 71 from which they depend. Dependent claims 73, 75, 77, 78, 79, 80, and 81 are also being amended to replace "transceiver" or "transceiving" with --transmit or receive-- or --transmitting or receiving--, respectively, for clarifying purposes. Applicants believe that the scope of these claims remains the same based on well known meanings of "transceiver" and "transceiving."

New claim 85 depends from claim 1 and should be allowed for at least the same reasons. Support for new claim 85 can be found at least in claim 18 as originally filed.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is believed that all now pending claims, claims 1-85, are in condition for allowance, and it is respectfully requested that the application be passed to issue. If the Examiner feels that a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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